iv. introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart card based delivery of essential commodities; and

v. getting periodically evaluated functioning of TPDS.

Commission to PDS shop-owners

3084. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that owners of Public Distribution System (PDS) shops are receiving abysmally low commission;

(b) if so, the details and reasons in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to revise the commission of PDS shopowners so as to minimize pilferages etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, has been notified by the Government of India on 31st August, 2001. As provided under this, State Governments regulate functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs). For each FPS, a licence is issued and certain number of ration card holder families is attached to it. The State Governments issue foodgrains to Fair Price Shop licensees which they distribute to the attached rations cards holders.

In order to enable State/UT governments to increase the commission of the Fair Price Shops (FPS) licensees, since 2001 they have been given flexibility in fixing the commission.

Further, to make operations of fair price shops economically viable, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to allow FPS licensees to enlarge basket of commodities sold by them by allowing sale of non-PDS items of daily use as per local requirement. By end of June, 2009, it has been reported by 23 State/UT Governments that the FPS owners are selling non-PDS items like edible oil, pulses, vanaspati ghee, milk powder, baby food, soaps, exercise books, butter, tea iodised salt and tooth paste, etc.

Rice and wheat at cheap rate

†3085. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether providing of rice and wheat at cheap rate of Rs. two/three per kg. has been implemented across States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of States with number of people and rate at which rice and wheat being provided to them;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.